

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 10 – 12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants are reserving the right to prosecute these claims by way of a continuation application.

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (currently amended) A laser source comprising:

a laser medium having a back facet and a front surface, wherein said laser medium emits a laser beam through said front surface into an external cavity;
~~a cavity end mirror wherein the laser medium emits a laser beam through the front surface into an external cavity defined in length by a cavity end mirror reflecting the~~ that defines a length of said external cavity and reflects said
~~laser beam back towards the said laser medium, wherein the said cavity end mirror is curved, and;~~
a wavelength tunable filter arranged between the said laser medium and the said
cavity end mirror ~~for tuning the~~ and being tunable to a wavelength of the said
~~laser beam to provide a resonant beam within said external cavity;~~
a focussing optics that focuses said laser beam on said cavity end mirror,
~~wherein the said laser medium, the said wavelength tunable filter, said beam~~
~~splitter, said focussing optics and the said cavity end mirror are arranged in a~~
~~spatially linear cavity structure substantially in a line without angular~~
~~redirection of the said laser beam in the said external cavity between the laser~~
~~medium and the cavity end mirror, and~~
a beam splitter arranged so that at least one portion of the laser beam within the
cavity ~~after passing the wavelength tunable filter and before again passing the~~
~~laser medium is coupled out as an output beam of the laser source.~~

2. (currently amended) The laser source of claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising a~~
~~beam splitter is provided between the said wavelength tunable filter and the said laser~~

~~medium for coupling out an output beam~~ that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

3. (currently amended) The laser source ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ back facet of ~~the said~~ laser medium is ~~provided to be~~ partly transparent, ~~so that and~~ couples out a portion of ~~the laser~~ said resonant beam ~~within the cavity is coupled out as a second output beam of the laser source.~~

4. (currently amended) The laser source ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~the said~~ laser medium or ~~the said~~ cavity end mirror is movable in ~~the a~~ linear direction of ~~the said~~ spatially linear cavity structure ~~in order to adjust the an~~ optical path length of ~~the said external~~ cavity ~~to the wavelength tuning provided~~ commensurate with a tuning of said wavelength by ~~the said~~ wavelength tunable filter.

5. (currently amended) The laser source of claim 4, further comprising a synchronizing unit ~~adapted synchronizing the~~ that synchronizes said optical path length of ~~the cavity with the wavelength tuning provided~~ with said tuning of said wavelength by ~~the said~~ wavelength tunable filter ~~in order to provide the so that said~~ laser beam ~~to be~~ is substantially mode hop free ~~when tuning the wavelength during said tuning.~~

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The laser source of claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ cavity end mirror is partly transparent ~~for coupling out an output beam~~ that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

8. (currently amended) The laser source of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a beam splitter ~~is provided between the said~~ wavelength tunable filter and ~~the said~~ cavity end mirror ~~for coupling out an output beam~~ that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

Please add the following claims, newly numbered as claims 13 – 19.

13. (new) A laser source comprising:

a laser medium that emits a laser beam into a cavity;

a curved mirror, at an end of said cavity, that reflects said laser beam back towards
said laser medium;

a lens that focuses said laser beam onto said curved mirror; and

a filter, between said laser medium and said curved mirror, being tunable to a
wavelength of said laser beam to provide a resonant beam within said cavity,
wherein said filter, said lens and said curved mirror are linearly situated in a path of
said laser beam.

14. (new) The laser source of claim 13, wherein said curved mirror is partly
transparent and couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

15. (new) The laser source of claim 13, wherein said laser medium has a partly
transparent back facet that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

16. (new) The laser source of claim 13, further comprising a beam splitter, between
said filter and said laser medium, that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

17. (new) The laser source of claim 13, further comprising a beam splitter, between
said filter and said curved mirror, that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

18. (new) The laser source of claim 13, wherein at least one of said laser medium or said curved mirror is movable to adjust a length of said path commensurate with a tuning of said filter.

19. (new) The laser source of claim 18, further comprising a device that synchronizes an adjustment of said length with said tuning of said filter.